



EXHIBIT 3
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SB 397

Montana Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife
P O Box 2243
Missoula, MT 59806

Senate Bill 397

April 9, 2013

House Fish, Wildlife, and Parks Committee

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, my name is Keith Kubista I am here today representing Montana Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife in support of SB 397.

Senate Bill 397 is the perfect solution to the cause and effect of over predation by lions, bears, and wolves in some areas which results in restrictions to hunting opportunities and in some cases negative consequences to rural economies.

This bill addresses with point blank precision predator control in specific areas to limit impacts on big game populations and hunting opportunities

This bill is all about restoring big game populations that are severely impacted by an abundance of predators, and although it is focused on using elk population numbers, deer and moose will benefit from it as well.

Predators learn very quickly, are extremely resilient and adapt faster than we can create laws or set new seasonal structures to hunt or trap them.

We need SB 397 which creates an automatic mechanism to reduce predators when they cause declines to big game herds.

Although there is more data on elk, moose are in much worse shape than elk in many regions due primarily to wolf predation, this bill will give relief to those struggling herds as well.

The best outcome of this bill is that it will increase calf recruitment for both elk and moose since studies indicate predators preferentially select calves as their choice of prey.

Senate Bill 397 will balance predator prey ratios and restore big game hunting opportunities.

I urge this committee to pass Senate Bill 397 which will accomplish what FWP has attempted to do thus far without success.